



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Waiting, as we see it in the people on the first pages of the Gospel, is waiting with a sense of promise. People who wait have received a promise that allows them to wait. They have received something that is at work in them, like a seed that has started to grow. This is very important. We can only really wait if what we are waiting for has already begun for us.

—Henri Nouwen

DECEMBER 7, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE • 8:45 AND 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO LMPC! *We're so glad you are with us today. Please scan the QR code on the back of your bulletin to share important information with us through an online form. As we come together to worship the living God, we ask that you silence all communication devices and refrain from bringing beverages into worship so that we might, in joyful reverence, give our full attention to praising and honoring our God. We encourage you to read the text on the front of the bulletin as we prepare to worship together.*

CHILDCARE: *Children of any age are welcome in our worship services. If you desire to use our nursery for your children ages 0-3, please see one of our ushers for directions. The ushers can also point you to crayons and children's bulletins.*

** Congregation standing as you are able*

Order of Worship

Prelude

"People, Look East"
arr. Robert Hobby

Welcome and greetings

John Mark Scruggs, pastor of congregational care

*** Call to worship**

based on Psalm 98 and Luke 1

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

All: **The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his
righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his
faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

Leader: Our souls glorify the Lord and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

All: **The Mighty One has done great things for us—holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation!**

*** Hymn of praise 198, vv. 1, 5, 6**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!"

*** Prayer of adoration**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Advent prayer

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

All: **O Eternal King, even in the midst of the shadows around us, your justice is dawning.**

Leader: Darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and nations shall come to your light.

All: **Fill us with wonder at your coming, and let our celebrations in this season spread new hope to a weary world.**

Leader: We long for your return when all will be set right.

All: **By your Spirit, teach us to embody your love as we eagerly await that day, when the sun shall no longer be our light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to us by night. For the LORD will be our everlasting light, and our God will be our glory. Amen.**

adapted from The Worship Sourcebook and Isaiah 60

Call to offering

Proverbs 23:4-5

Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
 as stars on their courses illumine the night.
 The vastness of time through infinite space,
 the universe dances with myst'ry and grace.

How I, a mere mortal, may look up in awe
 as Bethlehem's star beckons me through the dawn.
 It shines on the manger, the Prince of all peace,
 and bids me to wonder, "Is this Gift for me?"

Emmanuel...

The gift in the manger is given for all,
 the strong and heroic, the lost and the small.
 Christ bids to our stone hearts, "Come soften and give,"
 and offers his own heart, so others may live.

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
 how the light of the heavens is born in this Child.
 The universe dances with glory and grace,
 and I gaze in the manger and see Love's face.

Emmanuel...

I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

I wonder under the sky.

text and music by John Jacob Niles, 1933; alt. text and arr. Kyle Pederson ©2025 G. Shirmer, Inc. CCLI Lic.

#152036

*** Gloria Patri 735**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen, amen.**

*** Prayer of dedication and thanksgiving**

*** Scripture reading from John 1:6-9**

p. 1053 in pew Bible and text printed in the bulletin

Olivia Oster (8:45)

Jim Richter (11:00)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

“Waiting for the Light”

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

Pastoral prayer

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who have previously been admitted to the Lord’s Table, by the elders of this or any Gospel-proclaiming church, to receive the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Come with joy as you actively trust in Christ and willingly forsake sin, having sought reconciliation in all relationships.

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Hymn of confession

“Come, O Redeemer, Come”

1. Fa - ther, en - throned on high, ho - ly, ho - ly; an - cient, e - ter - nal
2. Lord, save us from the dark of our striv - ing, faith - less, trou - bled
3. Look now up - on our need; Lord, be with us. Heal us and make us
Light, hear our prayer. Come, O Re - deem - er, come; grant us
hearts weighed down.
free from our sin.
mer - cy. Come, O Re - deem - er, come; grant us peace.

text and music by Fernando Ortega © 1996 Metro One, ARR, ICS, UBP, CCLI Lic.#152036

Silent prayers of confession

Assurance of God’s pardoning grace

from Colossians 1

God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Christ, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Words of institution

Communion affirmation

Leader: It is our greatest joy to give our God thanks and praise. In the fullness of time, he sent his only Son to be our Emmanuel, making for us a highway in the wilderness, where we, once-captive, may return with songs of joy. In Christ Jesus, we have seen and heard the good news of God: the sick are healed, strangers are welcomed, the poor have hope, and the dead are raised to new life.

All: In this meal, we remember our Savior's coming, dying, and rising. We are nourished to live as children of truth and light, to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, and to spread this good news of redemption throughout the world. We wait for the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven and seek to be faithful and alert for that glad hour.

Therefore, we praise him, our Light and our Life, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

adapted from Eucharistic Prayers for Advent

Prayer of consecration

Distribution of the elements

For the bread

“Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth”
(see words and music on the facing page)

For the cup

“Hark the Glad Sound, the Savior Comes” Instrumental meditation

Hark the glad sound, the Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace, to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.

text by Philip Doddridge, 1735; music by Thomas Haweis, 1791, and The English Hymnal, 1906, RICHMOND

Prayer of thanksgiving

"Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth"

1. Come, thou Re-deem - er of the earth, and man - i - fest_ thy vir - gin-birth: let
2. Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, but of the Spir - it, thou art still the
3. From God the Fa - ther he pro-ceeds, to God the Fa - ther back he speeds, runs
4. O e - qual to thy Fa - ther, thou! Gird on thy flesh - ly man - tle now, the
5. Thy cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright, and dark - ness glow with new - born light, no
6. O Je - su, vir - gin-born, to thee e - ter - nal praise and glo - ry be, whom

ev - 'ry age a - dor - ing fall; such birth be - fits the God of all.
Word of God, in flesh ar-rayed, the Sav - ior, now to us dis - played.
out his course to death and hell, re - turns on God's high throne to dwell.
weak - ness of our mor - tal state with death - less might in - vig - o - rate.
more shall night ex - tin - guish day, where love's bright beams their pow'r dis - play.
with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

text by Ambrose, 4th cent., tr. J. M. Neale, 1851; Latin carol, 14th c., PUER NOBIS LM

* Hymn of response 194, vv. 1, 3, 4

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

* Benediction

* Congregational response

“Threefold Amen”

* Postlude

“Puer Nobis”
arr. Aaron David Miller

Musicians for this week:

Ellen Francisco – violin

Joshua Knight – organ, piano

Brett Hyberger – choral director

John 1:6-9

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

SERMON NOTES
“Waiting for the Light”
John 1:6-9

We wait expectantly for the Light who:

1. sent witnesses. (vv. 6-8)

2. came into the world. (v. 9)

Further Up, Further In,
Resources for
Continued Study



CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2025

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

nursery available

Sunday, December 7

6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

nursery available

Sunday, December 14

5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 21

time and locations TBD

CHRISTMAS EVE*

nursery available

Wednesday, December 24

LESSONS AND CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

3:00 and 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

3:00 and 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

**The Session has approved an increase to four live services on Christmas Eve, similar to a typical Sunday schedule, in order to engage people graciously and make for a more hospitable experience as we worship together.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US THIS EVENING for our annual Christmas Hymn Sing at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Nursery is provided.

DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, NURSERY will operate normally for service times but will NOT be offered during the 10:00 a.m. hour, since Sunday School will not resume until January. Please pick up your child(ren) from the nursery as soon as the service is ended.

ADVENT WEEKLY REFLECTIONS: As you exit the service, ushers will hand out Week 3 of our Advent Reflections. Use the Reflection each week for family devotions, small group study, and/or individual use leading into the next Sunday morning. If you'd rather view this online, find it alongside each Sunday's resources at lmpc.org/sermons. Copies of previous weeks are available in the fellowship hall lobby and Narthex.

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the end of each worship service on Sunday, December 14, for the two-fold purpose of approving nominees for the offices of elder and deacon for the class of 2029 and electing a member-at-large to serve as a director on the board of LMPC, Inc. Those men approved to stand for office will undergo training in the new year. The final election to office will take place in April 2026. The new director will assume that office on January 1, 2026.

COME TO OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT and enjoy the sounds of the season with our Chancel Choir, Girls' Ensemble, Children's Choir, and Handbell Ensemble! We will gather in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. Nursery is provided.

THE NEXT INTRO TO LMPC membership class is scheduled to be held as a Sunday School elective from January 4 through February 22. If you are interested in joining LMPC, please register on Realm Connect by December 23.

A SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP SERIES will be held February 6 through 8 featuring Dr. Jana Pressley. Save the date for this opportunity; more information to come. Dr. Pressley will discuss the holistic impact of chronic, relational trauma and the way that it shapes our functioning. Practical application will focus on supporting individuals in the context of the church community.

To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit lmpc.org/events.

TODAY AT LMPC

Sunday, December 7

8:45 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
10:00 a.m.	Prayer room.....	Room 212
11:00 a.m.	Worship service with communion.....	sanctuary & fellowship hall
3:00 p.m.	Handbell Ensemble practice	Choir Room
6:00 p.m.	Christmas Hymn Sing.....	fellowship hall
7:30 p.m.	High school youth group.....	JHYB

For more events this week, visit lmpc.org/events; for information on groups and classes, visit lmpc.org/groups.

JOIN REALM CONNECT

Do you have a Realm Connect account? Join our invitation-only networking site to access the LMPC online directory, manage giving, register for events, and fill out your Serving profile. Request your account today by visiting lmpc.org/realm.

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE TODAY!

We know it can be hard to connect with a new church. We want to help in any way we can. Please scan the QR code below and fill out an online information form. We will follow up with you about next steps. We are here to serve you!



OUR MISSION

*Glorifying God by growing in grace and giving our lives away
on the mountain, in the city, and around the world.*

CONTACT US

Address: 316 North Bragg Avenue
Lookout Mountain, TN 37350

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Phone: 423.821.4528

Worship services with Communion are held on the first Sunday of every month in all morning services. Devices to amplify sound are available. If you would like one, please arrive a few minutes early and ask an usher to assist you.